

EDWARD P. MITCHELL HONORED AT DINNER BY 'AMEN CORNER'

754 Makers of Thought at
Feast Greet Long Time
Editor of 'The Sun.'

MARTIN GLYNN SPEAKS

President by Letter and
Governors in Person Show
Their Esteem.

FUN MAKING OUT SHORT

Frank A. Munsey Pays Glowing
Tribute to Virtues of
Great Journalist.

For twenty-two years (their whole
brightly history) the brethren of
the Amen Corner had been too busy
until last night at the job of unswerving
the heads of statesmen and near
statesmen to single out a single in-
dividual, however remarkable for
character and achievements, as their
annual dinner guest of honor.

But last night at the Waldorf-Astoria
they broke the festive habit of
years and called together 750 guests
of singularly varied activities and in-
fluence to assist them in paying honor
to Edward Page Mitchell, who was
for many years editor in chief of
The Sun and a notable figure in the
polished literature of America.

You may or may not know that the
Brethren constitute a group of alert
and observing persons (elders most
days, slack and alas!) who began
to meet in professional rivalry and
understanding friendship back in the
days when the Fifth Avenue Hotel
was the political center of all the
United States there were, and when
Boss Platt, holding forth in a corner
of the hotel lobby, with a red plush
sofa as his throne, dealt out political
wisdom like any Solomon. The group
has grown plump, or rich, but old
habits hold. They still josh those
worthy of joshing, and it required a
remarkable incentive for them to de-
part from their habit. In the life of
Mr. Mitchell that incentive was
found.

The merit and the achievements of
Mr. Mitchell were golden threads run-
ning through the flowing weave of half
a dozen speeches in his honor.
These addresses, touching various
phases of an editorial and scholarly
career of well on to half a century, were
made by Martin H. Glynn, former Gov-
ernor, who delivered the special address
of appreciation; Frank A. Munsey, pro-
prietor of The New York Herald and
The Sun; Benjamin B. Odell, former
Governor, a long time appreciator of
Mr. Mitchell's editorial style, and Job E.
Hedges.

"One of Greatest of Great."
To these friends Mr. Mitchell made re-
ply with gentleness and sentiment,
flashes of wit and diverting reminis-
cence. Edward C. Riege, president of the
Amen Corner and assistant to the presi-
dent of the New York, New Haven and
Hartford Railroad, who was associated
with Mr. Mitchell for many years on
The Sun, presided and introduced the
speakers with this tribute to the guest
of honor:

"On this occasion the Corner desires
to honor one of the greatest of our
great editorial writers. He has been ac-
tive for fifty years. Only those who
have been associated with him during
most of his eventful life may hope to
express the deep and all abiding affec-
tion and admiration for him. And these
sentiments are uppermost in the news-
paper world at home and abroad.

"Yet it is my privilege to state that
what James J. Hill and Edward H.
Harriman and their great successors in
railroad life were and are to the rail-
road world; what the late J. P. Morgan
and his great successors were and are
in the financial world; what William
Evarts and Elihu Root were and are
to the mighty legal profession; what the
Rockefellers have been and are in their
tremendous field; what our thinking and
constructive clergymen of all denomina-



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one have been and are to the moral
thought of the country; what our
distant captains of industry were and
are in the commercial life of the nation
all these Mr. Mitchell has been and is
in the editorial world of this nation and
of the world at large. His responsibility
to the people has been and is mighty.
He has been and is a great unshak-
able tower of constructive thought.
Wherever the English language is
spoken Edward Page Mitchell is known
and loved.

Job Hedges started the speech mak-
ing with pleasant periphrase, as spark-
ling as any the Hedges humor will ever
turned out. Yet through it ran a vein
of warm seriousness in expressing for
the whole company their appreciation
of Edward P. Mitchell.

"I represent the common people so
far as this audience is concerned," said
Job, scowling characteristically at the
crowd. "The people are with you, Mr.
Mitchell. There is no acquaintance of
ours but who wants to be a friend. It
is unusual in these days to find a mod-
est man such as you, sir. Your pen is
one of the few that can attack a high
crowd and be understood by a low brow.
We look upon you as intellectually hon-
est, but sympathetic at the same time.
Many men speak without thinking. You
write after much thinking. You are one
of the few men who understand
early in the war what it was all about,
but the answer always came back that
he owed all his time and loyalty to his
newspaper. So when I finally bought
The Sun I said to Mr. Mitchell that the
only way I could get his services was to
buy his newspaper."

"My admiration for Mr. Mitchell since
that time has constantly increased, and
my love for him is like love for one's
family. He is gentle, diffident and re-
fined; never self-asserting—altogether
so charming and so sweet in his atti-
tude toward all of his associates that he
is loved throughout the whole institu-
tion."

"When the admirable suggestion of
giving a dinner in honor of Mr. Mitchell
was broached to me by Eddie Riege, he
asked me to speak at the dinner. I said
no. I said that I would be more than
pleased to sit at the table with other
gentlemen and discuss over the cigars
Mr. Mitchell's notable merits. I had in
mind the thought that public speaking,
on one's feet, is like airplane—yours
got to keep going or you'll fall. For a
man not accustomed to public speaking
the difficulty is to keep going."

"I wonder if the younger members of
the Amen Corner—and some of the older
ones, too—realize how few are left of
the old time editors like Mr. Mitchell.
Mr. Charles R. Miller of the New York
Times and Mr. Ogden, also of the Times?
These are all old time figures, pretty
nearly all that are left, indeed. The old
school editor was a man apart from the
modern editorial writer. He was thor-
ough, scholarly, a student of the Con-
stitution and of history. He had a rare
knowledge that gave to his work a qual-
ity that the editorial writer who dis-
cusses chiefly the news of the day
doesn't bring to his newspaper."

"The newspaper business is the most
difficult I know of. It is highly tech-
nical. It calls for a high degree of
business ability to guide a newspaper

successfully and to keep it off the rocks,
a higher degree than is called for, I
believe, by any other business. But
in addition, one who guides a newspaper
must know its news side and its edito-
rial side. It is that thoroughness that
Mr. Mitchell has and that is possessed
by Mr. Miller and Mr. Ogden.

"Talking with Mr. Miller not long
since, we both regretted that there were
so few men from whom to recruit edito-
rial writers. There is an amazing
dearth of good editorial writers. I as-
sume that one of the reasons for this is
that the news side of the newspaper, with
its features, has absorbed attention, and
this is regrettable, for the heart of a
newspaper is its editorial page. All
papers are more or less alike in the pre-
sentation of news, but the individuality
of a newspaper shows in its editorial
page. It is distinctly regrettable that we
have not more men like Mr. Mitchell.
We need such trained men to build up
our editorial page."

"Mr. Mitchell is a great student of
constitutional law. In discussions over
such topics in our office he never needs
to seek advice. Knowing Mr. Mitchell
as faithful readers of The Sun know
him, I assume to say that it is a great
privilege that he kept himself so much in
the background, so much that compara-
tively few know his personality. It gives
me great pride to be here to-night and
to join in honoring Mr. Mitchell."

Martin H. Glynn's tribute to Mr.
Mitchell contained these entertaining
thoughts:

"You can't speak of Mr. Mitchell
without speaking of The Sun; you can't
speak of The Sun without speaking of
many brilliant writers, some of whom
are here to-night, and of others who
have 'carried on' since Charles A. Dana
laid down his pen. They are leaf and
branch, bark and twig of the same tree."

"Greeley made the editorial, Bennett
made the news column, but Dana
blended the spiciness of the one with the
charm of the other, and therein lies
the magic compound of The Sun. And
in this blending it is difficult to tell
where Dana leaves off and Mitchell
begins. Dana humanized the newspaper
as Dickens humanized the novel. He
made The Sun love the world and reveal
in life. He made The Sun picture the
human panorama, paint the passing
show. He made The Sun tell popular
stories and tell animal tales."

"He made The Sun play up nature,
and children and plants and every-
thing that is interesting, curious and
strange. He made The Sun reflect the
moods of the world, the 'lively' or sad,
life's meanness, mightiest reflex, from
fighting cocks to fighting kings." In
short, Dana made people like The Sun
for the same reason that Daniel Webster
liked brandy: because it made them
feel good. Such was the tradition
handed to Mr. Mitchell, and nobly has
he 'carried on.'

"Molded by Dana."

"But if Mr. Mitchell had never met
Mr. Dana he would have been a notable
figure. Dana molded Mitchell, he did
not make him. 'Who's who?' says Mr.
Mitchell was born in Maine. I deny it.
Mr. Mitchell was born on the mytho-
logical hill of the muses, where
dwelt those nine beautiful maidens with
golden bands around their locks, per-
sonifying the gentle arts of life. But
I admit he got his sturdy Americanism
from New England. In keeping with
his Americanism Mr. Mitchell is an
optimist. I know not who coined the
phrase, 'The Sun shines for all,' and I
don't care who said, 'If you see it in
The Sun it's so,' because I know it
often bane, but I do rejoice that Mr.
Mitchell wrote that characteristic bit of
Sun poetry:

"We may be happy yet,
You bet!"

"It is this mastery of playful judg-
ment, this exploitation of sense in non-
sense, that places Mr. Mitchell among
the most delicious of satirists since the
days of James Russell Lowell. In
hands such as Mr. Mitchell's satire has
tremendous power to restrain conceit
and confound folly. His satire is not
sardonic ridicule. It is simply polished

rallies, allaying while it hurts, curing
while it cuts. When Mr. Mitchell
swings his satirical pen some faker,
some ex-con, some charlatan soon
learns he is up against the business end
of a bee.

"But Mr. Mitchell is not like the
Ozark fiddler who plays all his tunes on
one string. He is no writer of one note.
With swift he can pick a crow. With
Addison he can roar as gently as any
suckling dove. He can soothe and he
can scold, and whether he scolds or
soothes his writings bear the hallmark
of literature. He has the polish that
comes from intellectual elbow grease.
He is always classy and yet is master
of the two fisted phrase of the street.
But above all he has the element of
surprise. A literateur he is, but a news-
paper man always. He has done every-
thing on a newspaper but pl the type
and water the ink. He has written
everything but vers libre, and may the
muses forsake him if he ever writes
that!"

"Has Run Literary Gamut."
"In fiction he has written short
stories with the weirdness of Poe, the
humanity of G. Henry. He has run the
literary gamut from editorials that soothe
and editorials that scold, from analyses
of the 'rank,' definitions of the 'miser-
wump,' elucidations of the Einstein
theory and explanations of what the
tariff ought to be but isn't, to frolic-
some articles on 'What Is a Dodunk?'
'Could Mark Twain Find Out a Corn-
with a Boat Hook?' 'Can a Politician
Evolve on a Peanut?' 'How Should En-
gaged Couples Act at a Circus?' and 'Do
the Angels Play Football in Heaven?'
And he has written them all to the
sportive strain of:

"We may be happy yet,
You bet!"

"Mr. Mitchell is a man of books, but
his is no reclusive, no snail shell. He
puts himself on no pedestal. He stands
among the crowd and gets new
ideas, new notions and reacts to the
passions and solitudes of the world.
But in his reactions he is never
intoxicated with the fumes of enthusi-
asm. His head may be among the stars
but his feet are on the ground. He
insisted on being painted with a
wart upon his nose. That's Mr. Mit-
chell. He will not be blind to the obvious.
He has no illusions about hard facts.
He may not shout for the best possible
thing under the sun, but he stands for
the best possible thing under the sun
under the circumstances. He takes the
world as it is, and bad as it is he knows
it could be worse. He takes people as
he finds them and has no obstreperous
zeal to improve on the handiwork of
the Almighty. He knows that evolu-
tion may palliate and change, but that
evolution alone cures. Hence it is that
in sunshine and storm, in darkness and
light and in the dim of defeat Mr.
Mitchell stands up and sings:

"We may be happy yet,
You bet!"

The Amateurs and their guests went to
their feet when Mr. Mitchell, obviously
moved, arose to reply to the speeches of
appreciation. He thanked the Brethren
warmly, saying that they were greater
artists than Kretser at playing upon the
heart strings and that he thrilled at the
wonderful tribute they had paid to him.

Newspaper Profession His Life.

"The newspaper profession has been
my life," Mr. Mitchell went on. "Most
of us have strayed into this profession
to grow gray and in some cases bald
headed. Many of us art stanch advo-
cates of old school journalism and are
liable to be the enemies of the more
advanced journalism. There are many
changes of person and processes every-
where in the newspaper profession. One
thing is constant, the code of newspaper
honor, its independence and the willing-
ness to sink incomes into the profession
for the sake of professional respect and
news conscience."

Mr. Mitchell went on to say that the
newspaper man's existence was one of
perseverance, and that the newspaper man
who attacked the politicians to attend the
Pyramids and the ones who made
the phrase "The Man of Destiny" for

Napoleon are still at it to-day. He
paid his respects to Mr. Hedges, to Mr.
Munsey and to Mr. Glynn, and of Mr.
Munsey he said with much feeling:

"He is a marvel of courage, of under-
taking and tremendous accomplishment.
With these expressions from Mr. Mun-
sey and President Harding my evening
is complete."

On account of the lateness of the
hour Gov. Miller did not speak, ex-
pressing his compliments to Mr. Mitchell
personally.

Letter From the President.

Mr. Riege read greetings from several
persons of importance, including the
editor of the Marion Star, nowadays re-
ferred to as the President of the United
States. All the felicitations made it quite
clear that they were sincerely and ex-
tremely sorry they could not be present
to join persons in the tribute to one
whom they respected and admired so
strongly. The President wrote:

"THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON."

"MY DEAR MR. RIEGE:
"I am half inclined to be aggrieved
with you for again calling my attention
to the fact that the Amen Corner is to
have a dinner on January 7, in honor
of Mr. Edward Page Mitchell, the veter-
an editor and publicist. My agree-
ment, however, is entirely related to the
fact that your invitation suggests the
possibility of so thoroughly pleasurable
an occasion in which it is impossible for
me to participate. I can imagine few
greater pleasures than to join with your
associates of the Amen Corner in pay-
ing the tribute which has been so richly
earned by Mr. Mitchell."

"I cannot refrain from taking you
to task just a little bit for enclosing
me an array of biographical data con-
cerning Mr. Mitchell. Ever since I be-
gan accumulating newspaper associa-
tions and background Mr. Mitchell has
been an inspiration and an object of
both my admiration and my affection.
He is one of the men about whom we
little need biographical data, because
his life has been particularly an out-
spread page, from which the world has
been able to read every day for a half
century. Still, it is true that even his
newspaper friends and admirers are be-
lieved acquainted with his journalistic work
than with what we are pleased to call
the literary side. I wish some of his
stories, particularly some of the wild-
life bits of old-time reporting that he
did, were better known, and that that
unique institution, 'The Sun Story,'
were more frequently a model for pre-
sent day newspaper writers. I hope I
may say this in my capacity as one of
you newspaper men, without seeming to
preach from a Presidential pulpit."

"I do not remember anybody among
American journalists who has so long
occupied a place of such unique distinc-
tion as that of Mr. Mitchell. His career
covers the beginnings, the development
and the acting present of the great era
of metropolitan journalism in this coun-
try. In all its stages he has been a
leading and dominating participant, and
the best of all the good things that may
be said for him is that he has always
stood for the finest newspaper ideals
and the most unselfish and patriotic
public purposes."

"It is a very great disappointment
that my engagements are such that I
am not able to join you in your tribute
to this noble veteran of our profession.
I wish you would express to Mr. Mit-
chell my very best wishes that he may have
several more decades of the same useful
activities that he has carried on for the
last half century."

"Very sincerely,
"WARREN G. HARDING."

Other Notable Tributes.

From the Secretary of State, the
American Ambassador to Great Britain
and Chauncey M. Depew these regrets
and eulogies were read:

"MY DEAR MR. RIEGE:
"I have received your letter of De-
cember 8 and I appreciate most cordi-
ally your invitation to attend the din-
ner of the Amen Corner in honor of
Edward Page Mitchell on January 7.
Nothing would give me greater pleas-

ure than to attend this dinner and to
join in the tribute to Mr. Mitchell, for
whom I have the highest regard, but I
am afraid that it will be impossible. I
cannot be sure that the conference will
be over by that time, and if it is it
will have so recently adjourned that
there is every probability that I shall
be engaged in closing up important
matters in connection with it. I do
not see any reason to hope that I shall
be able to come to New York at that
time."

"Regretting that I must disappoint
you and miss the pleasure of this occa-
sion, I am,

"Very sincerely yours,
"CHARLES E. HUGHES."

"MY DEAR MR. RIEGE:
"President the Amen Corner,
"New York, N. Y."

"My most respectful salutations to
Edward Page Mitchell, the greatest
writing journalist, bar none, the world
has ever produced."

"GEORGE HARVEY."

"MR. EDWARD G. RIEGE:
"I am broken hearted that I cannot
be with you at the Amen dinner. I
wanted to sit under your autocracy, to
pay tribute to the greatest living edito-
rial writer and master of the things
that are and are to be, and to meet
my brethren of the Amen Corner, but
on account of Mrs. Depew's health I
cannot. With a Happy New Year and
lots of them for yourself."

"Affectionately yours,
"CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW."

Punning Out Short.

The brethren of the Amen Corner
have done their part over a considerable
sweep of years in reducing bumps of
esteem cherished by statesmen, news
statesmen and merely politicians. They
have flouted, they have jested and they
have gibed on occasion, always with
good humor and saucy wit. Being what
they are, instead of the field of political
lore, knowing the great and almost great
for merely human beings with faults

Continued on Following Page.

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\$2.00 Dress Foulard; new Spring
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changeable; 36 inches wide..... 1.75
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40 inches wide..... 3.69
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black; 40 inches wide..... 2.59
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and black; 40 inches wide..... 1.19
\$1.75 Silk Jersey; in Spring shades;
36 inches wide..... 1.39
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